(c) No proposal from Government of Gujarat for establishment of water quality testing laboratories is pending with the Government of India.

(d) Does not arise.

Sale of acquired land to private companies

†980. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that land of farmers is acquired in various States and after the lapse of many years and achieving of the objectives of acquisition the land is not handed over to farmers after making it free from acquisition;

(b) whether at many places, such acquired land is being sold to big private establishments and companies by Government at high prices by charging its land use;

(c) whether Government proposes to bring any bill to protect the farmers from such exploitation by State Governments; and

(d) if so, the outline of the bill and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Land and its management are under the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the States as provided in Entry No. 18 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. Acquisition of Agricultural Land for various projects of Union and State Governments is being done by the concerned State Governments. However, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has formulated a revised National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy (NRRP), 2007, which was approved by the Cabinet on 11th October, 2007, and the same have been published in the Gazette of India dated 31st October, 2007.

The para 6.24.2 of the NRRP, 2007 provides that if land compulsorily acquired for a project or part thereof, remains unutilized for the project for a period of five years from the date of taking over the possession by the requiring body, the same shall revert to the possession and ownership of the appropriate Government without payment of any compensation or remuneration to the requiring body.

(c) and (d) It has also been decided to give a statutory backing to the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 (NRRP-2007). Accordingly, the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2007 and The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 2007 have been developed on the lines of the provisions of the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 and have been introduced in the Parliament during Winter season of 2007. However, the Bills were referred to the Standing Committee on Rural Development. The Standing Committee has submitted its reports. The official amendment to these Bills have been developed by this Department in consultation with the Ministry of Law. These Bills were considered by the Cabinet and have been referred to the Group of Ministers for consideration.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.